

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ATR Solartech Installs First Sun-Tracking Electric Vehicle Charger**

***Governor O'Malley and public officials helplaunchSolar Power Pole***

***New device, well-suited for high-density areas, debuts in Bethesda***

August 8, 2011, Bethesda, MD –The State of Maryland has taken another important step forward as a national leader in green technology innovation with the launch today of the Solar Power Pole in Bethesda. The Solar Power Pole is Maryland's first high-efficiency, sun-tracking electric vehicle (EV) solar charging station.

At today's Solar Power Pole debut, Governor Martin O'Malley was joined by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Assistant Secretary Joel Szabat, Maryland Energy Administration Director Malcolm Woolf, Bethesda Green Executive Director Dave Feldman, Baltimore-Washington Electric Vehicle Initiative Executive Director Jill Sorensen, and Alvin L. ("Tripp") Aubinoe, III, the first purchaser of the ATR Solar Power Pole and owner of the Bethesda commercial site.

Advanced Technology & Research Corp. (ATR), an engineering and manufacturing firm based in Columbia, MD, developed the Solar Power Pole. The Solar Power Pole is a sun-tracking system that moves with the sun throughout the day to fully capture its clean power and can fuel two electric vehicles at a time. Solar power is converted into electric power and stored in the utility grid. The system qualifies for federal and state rebates as a renewable energy generator.

The Solar Power Pole represents a new generation of clean energy possibilities towards zero-carbon transportation. The Solar Power Pole features an 18-foot tall elevated 1,410 watt, six-panel solar array that utilizes GPS-based sun-tracking technology for efficiency gains of 30-45% over conventional fixed solar arrays. The pole-top mount keeps the solar panels well overhead and the curbside footprint very small, aiding in its placement in urban and densely populated areas.

"Last year, Governor O'Malley challenged Maryland's high-technology leaders to join him in harnessing our innovative capacities to create jobs and help meet his strategic goal of generating 20% of the state's energy from clean, renewable sources by 2022," said Dr. Jackson Yang, founder and CEO of ATR. "We wanted to respond to this challenge. As a result, ATR diversified its manufacturing capabilities to help meet Maryland's clean energy needs."

*ATR Solartech, a division of Advanced Technology & Research Corp. (ATR), is a Maryland company manufacturing innovative solar energy products to a world market ([www.ATRsolartech.com](http://www.ATRsolartech.com)).*

Governor O'Malley said, "In a changing new economy, the states that win will be those who succeed in creating the high-tech jobs of tomorrow, using innovation and imagination to expand opportunity. ATR's sun-tracking charging station is the very embodiment of an Imagination Economy. I am pleased that ATR is innovating and manufacturing new green technologies right here in Maryland."

In July 2010, ATR was awarded a \$1.1 million Clean Energy Economic Development Initiative (CEEDI) grant, administered through the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and the U.S. Department of Energy using federal stimulus funds.

"Through MEA's Clean Energy Economic Development Initiative, the state's smart investment in ATR has leveraged private capital for real results," said MEA Director Malcolm Woolf. "ATR is a shining example of Maryland's leadership in establishing a clean-energy sector, which will be an engine of green job creation into the future."

In the past year, ATR Solartech has developed a suite of high-efficiency solar power innovations for both commercial and residential uses. These products are all sun-tracking solar power generators, designed for maximum production and requiring only a small footprint for installation and aesthetics. Manufactured and assembled in Maryland, the ATR solar innovations include:

- Solar power pole mounts for distributed clean energy production from parking lot and highway lightpoles;
- Solar power post mounts for residential clean energy production;
- The first solar-tracking electric vehicle charging station in Maryland; and
- Maryland's first commercially available hybrid wind-solar energy product, which debuted in June 2011 on Tilghman Island.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation Policy Joel Szabat noted, "A key challenge to the effective deployment of electric vehicles is a widespread, easily accessed network of car chargers. People who buy electric vehicles need to have convenient access to charging stations. By utilizing renewable energy with sun-tracking technology, the ATR Solar Power Pole is an attractive option as we develop a national network of car chargers that will support the rapidly increasing number of electric vehicles on America's roadways."

Jill Sorensen, Executive Director of the Baltimore-Washington Electric Vehicle Initiative (BEVI), an EV advocacy group, stated, "ATR has demonstrated that innovation goes hand-in-hand with economic stimulus. The ATR Solar Power Pole really goes the distance, supporting not just zero tailpipe emission vehicles but also total zero emission by using solar power. This is a smart advance, made possible by a talented group of collaborative engineers and businessmen, and just one more reason why tomorrow's drivers are looking for more EV options."

"Tripp" Aubinoe, the Bethesda commercial site owner, in conclusion, noted, "With skyrocketing fuel costs and in anticipation of a flood of electric cars soon to enter the market, I wanted to be able to provide this service to my patrons. The ATR Solar Power Pole allows for people to conveniently recharge their car while shopping or visiting an office. I hope that my actions here will inspire others to take their own steps towards a more sustainable future."

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